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FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY SERIES.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF WOODS
GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES.

PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF TESTS
ON SMALL, CLEAR, GREEN SPECIMENS
OF FORTY-NINE SPECIES OF WOOD.



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TABLE 1.—Results of tests on 49 species of wood tested in a green condition in the form of small clear pieces.

[Test specimens are 2 by 2 inches in section. Bending specimens are cut 30 inches long; others are shorter, depending on kind of test.]

Species: Common name and botanical name.	Locality where grown.	Number of trees.	Rings per inch.	Proportion of summer wood.	Moisture content.	Specific gravity, oven dry, based on—		Shrinkage from green to oven-dry condition.			Static bending.						Impact bending.					Compression parallel to grain.			Compression perpendicular to grain, fiber stress at elastic limit.	Hardness—Load required to embed a 0.444-inch ball to one-half its diameter.			Shearing strength parallel to grain.		Cleavage strength per inch of width.		Tension perpendicular to grain.			
						Volume when green.	Volume when oven dry.	In volume.	Radial.	Tangential.	Fiber stress at elastic limit.	Modulus of rupture.	Modulus of elasticity.	Work in bending.			Fiber stress at elastic limit.	Modulus of elasticity.	Work in bending to elastic limit.	Weight of hammer.	Height of drop causing complete failure.	Fiber stress at elastic limit.	Crushing strength.	Modulus of elasticity.		End surface.	Radial surface.	Tangential surface.	When surface of failure is—							
														To elastic limit.	To maximum load.	Total.													Radial.	Tangential.	Radial.	Tangential.	Radial.	Tangential.		
HARDWOODS.																																				
Ash:				Per cent.	Per cent.			Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Lbs. per sq. in.	Lbs. per sq. in.	1,000 lbs. per sq. in.	Inch lbs. per cu. in.	Inch lbs. per cu. in.	Inch lbs. per cu. in.	Lbs. per sq. in.	1,000 lbs. per sq. in.	Inch lbs. per cu. in.	Pounds.	Inches.			Lbs. per sq. in.	Lbs. per sq. in.	1,000 lbs. per sq. in.	Lbs. per sq. in.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Lbs. per sq. in.	Lbs. per sq. in.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Lbs. per sq. in.	Lbs. per sq. in.
Black (<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>)	Marathon County, Wis.		25.0		77	0.466					2,580	6,000	960	0.41	13.1	38.9	7,840	955	3.69	50	30			452	565	542	546	876	832	275	260					
White (<i>Fraxinus Americana</i>)	Stone County, Ark.	5	14.8	51	38	.550	0.640	12.6	4.3	6.4	5,180	9,920	1,416	1.10	20.0	43.7	11,710	1,564	4.93	50	30			452	565	542	546	876	832	275	260					
Do.	Richland Parish, La.	5	20.6	60	47	.516	.590	11.7			4,450	8,880	1,319	.87	10.6	24.0	11,720	1,388	5.55	50	33	3,510	4,220	1,531	889	1,121	1,000	1,017	1,360	1,312	333	346	645	671		
Basswood (<i>Tilia Americana</i>)	Marathon County, Wis.	3	23.2	30	110	.315	.374	14.5	6.2	8.4	2,480	4,450	842	.45	5.8	8.9	5,480	917	1.84	50	16			801	842	729	734	1,239	1,166	357	341	616	611			
Beech (<i>Fagus atropunicea</i>)	Hendricks and Morgan Counties, Ind.	5	16.9		61	.556	.669	16.5	4.6	10.5	4,490	8,610	1,353	.96	14.1	31.4	11,760	1,501	5.10	50	43	2,770	3,480	1,412	605	1,012	897	918	1,154	1,375	339	527	633	969		
Birch, yellow (<i>Betula lutea</i>)	Marathon County, Wis.	5	19.7	28	72	.545	.661	17.0	7.9	9.0	4,190	8,390	1,597	.62	14.2	31.5	11,080	1,812	3.79	50	36	2,570	3,400	1,915	439	827	768	739	1,103	1,188	287	446	526	526		
Elm:																																				
Rock	do.		30.0		46	.578					4,290	9,430	1,222	.90	19.4	47.4	12,090	1,367	6.52	50	48			696	954	883	893	1,210	1,330	282	377					
Slippery (<i>Ulmus pubescens</i>)	Hendricks County, Ind.	1	8.4	68	57	.541	.639	15.5	5.1	9.9	5,560	9,510	1,314	1.32	11.7	44.2	11,700	1,569	4.86	50	40	3,410		1,453	730	919	757	687	1,197	1,174	401	424	765	832		
White (<i>Ulmus Americana</i>)	Marathon County, Wis.		19.0		66	.430					2,850	6,940	1,052	.44	11.8	27.4	9,910	1,138	4.82	100	17			292	536	456	497	778	872	210	270					
Gum, red (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	New Madrid County, Mo.	20			71	.434					3,460	6,450	1,138																							
Hackberry (<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>)	Hendricks County, Ind.	1	8.3	70	50	.504	.576	14.0	4.2	8.9	3,320	7,800	1,170	.56	19.6	52.9	10,420	1,398	4.48	50	62	2,730	3,310	1,068	575	829	795	773	1,095	1,161	422	436	661	786		
Hickory:																																				
Big shellbark (<i>Hicoria laciniosa</i>)	Sardis, Miss.	10	23.9	60	64	.601		17.6	7.4	11.2	6,370	11,110	1,562	1.47	24.3	78.0																				
Do.	Napoleon, Ohio.	9	13.9	71	55	.666		20.9	7.9	14.2	4,800	9,880	1,099	1.23	36.2	99.0																				
Bitternut (<i>Hicoria minima</i>)	do.	11	11.7	71	65	.624					5,470	10,280	1,399	1.22	20.0	75.5																				
Mockernut (<i>Hicoria alba</i>)	Sardis, Miss.	8	19.3	55	64	.606		16.5	6.9	10.4	5,900	10,840	1,625	1.22	18.6	58.2																				
Do.	Chester County, Pa.	11	16.6	69	57	.662		18.9	8.4	11.4	6,550	11,110	1,508	1.50	31.7	84.4																				
Nutmeg (<i>Hicoria myristica-formis</i>)	Webster County, W. Va.	1	31.5	61	48	.666					6,890	12,720	1,883	1.41	24.1	98.7																				
Pignut (<i>Hicoria glabra</i>)	Sardis, Miss.	5	22.1	58	76	.558					4,860	9,060	1,289	1.06	22.8	58.2																				
Do.	do.	4	17.8	60	59	.627		15.0	5.6	9.8	6,430	11,780	1,665	1.42	24.7	65.1																				
Do.	Napoleon, Ohio.	10	18.5	64	54	.667		15.3	6.3	9.5	6,820	12,360	1,553	1.71	27.7	88.7																				
Do.	Chester County, Pa.	27	18.9	67	55	.667		16.9	6.8	10.9	6,140	11,450	1,605	1.34	34.9	87.9																				
Shagbark (<i>Hicoria ovata</i>)	Sardis, Miss.	19	22.1	63	52	.667		21.2	8.5	13.8	5,860	11,810	1,769	1.12	30.6	86.7																				
Do.	Napoleon, Ohio.	4	20.2	62	65	.608		16.0	6.5	10.2	6,220	11,330	1,638	1.34	16.7	64.2																				
Do.	Chester County, Pa.	1	17.2	71	58	.646		18.4	7.9	11.4	5,430	10,990	1,346	1.27	34.1	86.4																				
Do.	Webster County, W. Va.	10	19.9	63	64	.617					5,900	10,170	1,392	1.61	11.9	75.3																				
Water (<i>Hicoria aquatica</i>)	Sardis, Miss.	2	15.4	66	64	.630		15.5	6.5	9.7	6,120	11,000	1,752	1.22	18.3	72.3																				
Locust, honey (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>)	Hendricks County, Ind.	1	3.6	84	53	.695	.759	8.6			5,980	10,740	1,563	1.29	18.8	52.9																				
Maple:											6,020	12,360	1,732	1.28	17.3	64.4	13,460	2,114	4.78	50	56	4,300	4,970	1,536	1,684	1,862	1,860	1,832	1,885	2,096	552	610	1,133	1,445		
Red (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Marathon County, Wis.		20.0		69	.512					4,450	8,310	1,445	.78	9.8	17.1	11,670	1,411	5.45	50	28															
Sugar (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	Hendricks and Morgan Counties, Ind.	5	19.0		57	.546	.643	14.3	4.9	9.1	4,630	8,860	1,462	.88	12.7	32.0	11,680	1,680	4.55	50	37	3,040		1,463	653	992	918	901	1,193	1,455	376	513	610			
Do.	Marathon County, Wis.		22.0		56	.577					4,620	8,820	1,437	.85	9.6	16.2	13,780	1,581	6.75	50	28															
Oak:																																				

.....	20.0	.....	69	.512	.....	.....
5	19.0	.....	57	.546	.643	1
.....	22.0	.....	56	.577	.....	.....
5	30.4	61	64	.590	.732	1
5	11.1	62	83	.569	.662	1
6	10.7	64	80	.568	.660	1
5	10.4	70	90	.565	.....	.....
1	15.5	71	74	.637	.792	1
.....	.....	.....	88	.585	.....	.....
5	22.1	65	58	.594	.704	1
5	15.6	60	62	.603	.696	1
.....
5	16.0	67	78	.600	.708	1
5	12.5	71	77	.573	.669	1
.....	19.0	.....	80	.550	.....	.....
1	6.5	82	31	.761	.838	.....
5	19.2	.....	81	.454	.526	1
1	15.9	26	121	.475	.545	1
.....
5	23.4	36	55	.293	.315	.....
9	15.5	.....	80	.363	.....	.....
4	24.8	38	79	.452	.513	1
.....
5	15.0	14	47	.306	.321	.....
14	7.4	34	117	.383	.....	.....
5	17.3	22	32	.418	.458	1
5	9.9	30	156	.350	.437	1
5	24.4	31	129	.340	.394	.....
.....
5	20.1	17	44	.370	.415	1
5	30.3	14	58	.371	.407	1
5	16.5	37	63	.528	.599	1
5	22.1	41	54	.440	.507	1
70	13.4	.....	52	.477	.....	.....
5	11.9	34	123	.360	.386	.....
5	21.4	26	98	.353	.395	.....
5	13.0	31	125	.377	.433	1
5	31.9	20	93	.391	.435	.....
5	16.2	31	74	.363	.391	.....
.....	14.5	24	81	.334	.....	.....
.....	24.4	32	69	.366	.....	.....
.....
5	17.1	16	45	.325	.359	1
5	11.3	13	156	.299	.335	1
4	22.9	24	31	.396	.....	.....
2	5.8	22	41	.318	.....	.....
5	19.9	38	52	.491	5.58	1

NOTE.—The blank spaces in the table are due to th

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF WOODS GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE TESTS.

The tests made by the Forest Service to determine the mechanical properties of woods grown in the United States fall into two classes: (1) Tests on full-sized pieces, such as bridge stringers and car sills, and (2) tests on small clear pieces free from defects. Tests of the first kind have been made on a number of species and the results presented in several publications. (See list on p. 4.) These results are of value in the formulation of grading rules for structural timber, in the establishment of working stresses, and in showing the influence of defects such as knots, shakes, and checks upon the strength of the material.

A series of tests of the second kind was begun by the Forest Service about two years ago to secure information that will enable the mechanical properties of the different woods to be compared, both in the green and air-dry state, and to determine the influence on strength of such factors as locality of growth, height of test pieces in the tree, and distance of pieces from pith. This preliminary circular gives in condensed form the average values thus far obtained from 49 species of wood tested in a green condition. More detailed analyses of the values will follow as the work progresses. The test material was cut from typical trees selected by members of the Forest Service, and records were made of the conditions of growth. Eventually each important species will be represented by averages from at least five typical trees from each of several localities throughout its range of growth. In several of the species listed in Table 1 averages are given from tests on less than five trees. Since there is considerable variation in the strength of wood from individual trees of the same species, such results should be taken as indications rather than as fixed values. The number of test pieces from each tree varied from 40 to 120, depending on the size of the tree. The total number of tests represented in Table 1 is about 25,000.

The tests, which comprise the series described above and others made previously, were made at laboratories of the Forest Service maintained in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, Purdue University, University of Colorado, University of California, and University of Washington.

THE RESULTS.

Table 1 gives average values obtained from tests on green material 2 by 2 inches in cross section. The following kinds of tests were made: Bending, both static and impact; compression parallel and compression perpendicular to the grain; hardness; shear parallel to grain; cleavage or splitting; and tension at right angles to grain. The table also includes information on shrinkage, specific gravity, moisture content when tested, proportion of summerwood, and rate of growth or rings per radial inch.

LIST OF FOREST SERVICE PUBLICATIONS ON MECHANICAL AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF WOOD.

BULLETINS.

- Bul. 6. Timber Physics, Part I, Preliminary Report.¹
- 8. Timber Physics, Part II, Progress Report.¹
- 10. Timber—an Elementary Discussion of the Characteristics and Properties of Wood.¹
- 13. Timber Pines of the Southern United States.
- 58. The Red Gum.
- 70. Effect of Moisture Upon the Strength and Stiffness of Wood.¹
- 80. The Commercial Hickories.
- 88. Properties and Uses of Douglas Fir.
- 108. Tests of Structural Timbers.¹
- 115. Mechanical Properties of Western Hemlock.
- 122. Mechanical Properties of Western Larch.

CIRCULARS.

- Cir. 12. Southern Pine—Mechanical and Physical Properties.¹
- 15. Summary of Mechanical Tests on Thirty-Two Species of American Woods.¹
- 38. Instructions to Engineers of Timber Tests (Revised).
- 39. Experiments on the Strength of Treated Timber.
- 108. Strength of Wood as Influenced by Moisture.¹
- 115. Second Progress Report on the Strength of Structural Timber.
- 142. Tests of Vehicle and Implement Woods.
- 164. Properties and Uses of Southern Pines.
- 179. Utilization of California Eucalypts.
- 189. Strength Values for Structural Timbers.¹
- 193. Mechanical Properties of Redwood.

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